

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: CARAMANLIS APPOINTS GOVERNING COMMITTEE FOR
NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY

REF: ATHENS A-54 OF MARCH 20, 1975 AND ATHENS 2151

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, IN EARLY MARCH THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY (ND) PARLIAMENTARY GROUP GAVE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS BLANKET AUTHORITY TO APPOINT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE FOR THE PARTY. ON MARCH 26, PM CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCED HIS CHOICE OF THE TWENTY-MEMBER COMMITTEE WHICH HE WILL CHAIR. ALTHOUGH NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO, CARAMANLIS SUBMITTED THE LIST TO THE ND PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WHICH APPROVED IT "UNANIMOUSLY."

2. LATER CARAMANLIS WILL APPOINT A SMALLER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ACT AS A STEERING GROUP. HE HAS INDICATED THAT A PARTY CONGRESS WILL BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR AS THE SUPREME ORGAN OF THE ND. THE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE EXERCISED BY THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE AND BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REMAIN UNCLEAR.

3. THE COMMITTEE NAMED BY CARAMANLIS HOLDS NO UNUSUAL CHOICES. HOWEVER, NONE OF THOSE NAMED IS A DEPUTY. HE
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PICKED THREE FORMER MINISTERS (ALLAMANIS,

GEROKOSTOPOULOS AND KALLIAS) AND A FAMOUS GENERAL (RETIRED),
TSOLAKAS. THIS GERONTOCRACY WAS OFFSET SOMEWHAT BY THE
INCLUSION OF SOME YOUNGER INTELLECTUALS, ACTORS,
JOURNALISTS. THERE ARE ONLY TWO TRADE UNIONISTS AND TWO
BUSINESSMEN IN THE GROUP. A FORMER UN OFFICIAL, IDENTIFIED
AS PHILIPPOS MESSINEZIS, IS ALSO A MEMBER. TIMOLEON LOUIS
WAS APPOINTED TO BE DIRECTOR, I.E. ADMINISTRATOR, OF THE
PARTY. (GEORGE RALLIS HAD BEEN NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL
EARLIER.)
KUBISCH

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